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MBA Football Opens 6-2 in their Quest for State !!!



MBA CC off to great start (See page 2)



Slick Wilkes back!!! (See Page 10)



Recalling The UK (See Page 2)

Montgomery Bell Academy Bell Ringer

Montgomery Bell Academy

4001 Harding Road Nashville, TN 37205

October 1998

Volume 55 Number 1

Big Red Routs Ryan to Avenge Clinic Bowl Loss

By Stephen Was

The MBA Big Red football team kicked off the 1998 Homecoming weekend with one of the biggest victories in recent school history. After a week of intense preparation and an animated pep rally earlier in the day, the Big Red took advantage of the "revenge factor" and handily defeated a scrappy Father Ryan team, 16-7.

Father Ryan, who edged MBA in last year's Clinic Bowl, 13-10, scored its only points of the night off an early MBA miscue in which the ball sailed over punter Ingle Martin's head.

After this mistake, though, the Big Red football team turned in a dominating performance, holding the Fighting Irish to only nineteen total yards of offense. The Big Red defense, led by senior Hunter Hillenmeyer and

junior Tate Rich, came up big time and time again, repeatedly sacking Ryan's quarterback.

The Big Red scoring highlights started late in the first half when senior quarterback John Thompson found senior wide receiver Jay Davis in the back of the end zone for a touchdown. This key play swung the momentum in favor of MBA as the first half ended.

Homecoming festivities were capped by a lengthy display of colorful explosions during the intermission, thanks to the Father's Club.

MBA picked up in the second half right where it left off as junior running back Jonas Rodriguez put the Big Red in the lead for good with a short touchdown run. Late in the game, Jay Davis sealed the victory by splitting the up-rights with an impres-

sive forty-seven yard field goal.

This important victory moved the Big Red one step closer to the State Championship, and the game should not be overshadowed by the events which followed it. In one incident, a number of students from the opposing school lost their rationality and inexplicably ganged up on a member of MBA's junior school. Whether provoked or not, these students from Father Ryan must bear the responsibility for their actions. Nonetheless, the MBA student body rose above the occasion and did not lower itself to such cowardly and immature levels.

The following Friday, the MBA football team rolled into Memphis to face Division II opponent Christian Brothers. Avoiding a let-down after the

previous week's emotional win, MBA improved its record to seven wins and two losses. Sophomore sensation Ingle Martin scored two touchdowns and David McIntosh added another in a game highlighted by turnovers. The team's return to Nashville was delayed several hours as one of the team buses broke down along the way.

The Big Red football team has a week off to nurse nagging injuries and to prepare for its next game, October 30 versus McCallie. Seniors David Farrell and Cole Barfield sat out several games, and David McIntosh has played much of the season with a shoulder injury. No doubt, this off week could not come at a better time.

The upcoming game against McCallie will now be the biggest game of the year, as home field advantage for the playoffs may be on the line. As the season nears its end and the playoff picture unfolds, the Big Red football team will need the support of the entire MBA community in its quest for the State Championship.

Service Club Strives to Help Community

By Robert Womack

The MBA Service Club has already provided several opportunities for MBA students to help improve the community. In fact, participation so far this year has increased since last year. The Service Club has changed the amount of hours that students need each quarter to become members. To become a member in the

service club this year, a student must have at least eight hours in



three different quarters.

There are so many projects

lined up each quarter so far that students should not have any trouble meeting this requirement. There are great new projects lined up such as RELEAF, which is a project

with lifting and planting these trees to help the citizens of East Nashville beautify their neighborhoods once again.

see "Service," pg. 12, column 1

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NEWS

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Reflections Upon Trip to Merry Ol' England

By David Farrell



I first arrived at Winchester College in Winchester, England, at the beginning of the summer having left my classes at MBA only the previous day. In my new and foreign surroundings, I encountered many things that confused me. For instance, the game of cricket proved particularly enigmatic. Despite the insistence of those around me that it was similar to that great American pastime, baseball, which we all enjoy and in which we all take great pride, I saw little resemblance save the (severely altered) bat and ball. I was struck in the same way by Winchester College as a whole. It was new and strange to me. It resembled on a basic level that system which I had experienced in America, but in the end, like the game of cricket, it was quite different.

On the surface, Winchester College is much like MBA. Both strive to develop a student's mind and character. Both schools have mottoes, which attempt, in a few words, to sum up the ideals of the two institutions. Montgomery Bell Academy takes pride in its motto: "Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete," while the Wykehamists (those who attend Winchester College) live by the words, "Manners Maykth Man." Both institutions

have similar goals, but there are significant differences in how those goals are to be achieved.

At both establishments, the faculty is excellent. The teachers are well educated and are often prominent in their individual fields. They demand a level of respect that is given by the students instinctively.

The differences begin with the physical environments. At Montgomery Bell Academy the buildings are modern and new, with several computers in every room. At Winchester College, the classroom furnishings are old, redolent of traditions and past generations. Simply by sitting at any given desk around the campus, a student may be inspired.

Another area of difference is the structure of the class schedules. At MBA we are entrenched in curriculum of five or six courses a day Monday through Friday. They always come in the same order and at the same times. At Winchester College, the first three years are equivalent to our eighth through tenth grade. They also study about five different courses; however, much like college systems here, their classes meet at different times during the week. A student there may have two English classes during the day and no math classes. In the top two years, our junior and senior years, the students narrow their study to three courses. A student may focus on science, language, the arts, or whatever he most enjoys.

The advantage of the Winchester College system is obvious: through this type of study, a student can more completely explore his field of interest. Our system, though, also has an advantage. As I am finding it nearly impossible to decide

what I want to study in college, I would find it terribly difficult to restrict my breadth of study during my high school career.

The other main academic difference has to do solely with location. At Winchester College, if an English class is studying Shakespeare they may very easily travel to the site of the Globe Theatre in London and experience a Shakespearean play as it was meant to be experienced. At MBA, we must watch a video or visit one of the theaters in town.

At Winchester College, an ancient history course is studying Stone Age Britain. That class, without much trouble, may travel to Stonehenge and be inspired by its mystery. At MBA, that same class would have to make do with photographs.

I thought America and Nashville itself have many wonderful attractions from Mount Rushmore to the County Music Hall of Fame, but England is much, much older and hence has many more that are rich in history.

Sports and athletic participation is another area of comparison between the two schools. At MBA, sports are very important. Athletic participation is required by all students, though most students would choose to participate even if there were no re-

quirements. To be a part of a team at MBA is to be a part of something great, to have a sense of pride and responsibility. At Winchester College, there is much less

emphasis on sports which for students there is little more than daily exercise and a way of staying in shape. A student who would be at an athletic practice at MBA until at least six every night would, at Winchester College, use that time to pursue another interest. Though they do have such sports as rowing and a fairly competitive

track team, I would compare these organizations to our intramural activities (no offense to Coach Bills).

A third area of comparison between the two schools is their respective sources of entertainment and social experience. MBA's being a day school, the social lives of the students take place outside the school. The students may choose to get together at a particular hangout spot or perhaps see a movie at a local movie theater, but whatever they choose, the school has no direct jurisdiction over them. Another factor that plays a role in the social life of young Americans is the drinking age. Alcohol is extremely frowned upon and, as far as the school is concerned, strictly forbidden. At Winchester College many of the social events take place within the institution itself, given that the students live on campus. Though students can see movies, usually social events take the form of lectures or seminars on various subjects. This set-

see "Farrell," pg. 5, column 3



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Letters to the editor are encouraged, and can be given to a member of the editorial staff, or sent to editor@montgomerybell.com. These letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request. Letters will be edited for length if necessary.

The staff of *The Bell Ringer* prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy, GCA Publishing in Nashville, Tennessee, prints the paper.

NEWS BRIEFS

By Gabe Roth

Five Seniors Tapped into Totomoi

The *Bell Ringer* would like to congratulate the new members of Totomoi who were inducted during the Fall Tapping at a recent assembly. After running circles around the student body, faculty, and a surprised Mr. Milne, a visitor on campus, members Andrew Eckstein and Jonathan Tarr tapped seniors Jay Davis, Hanlin Qian, David Farrell, Jim Ward, and Robbie Quinn.

In the spring, members of the junior class will also be eligible to become members in this honored society.

Guys and Dolls--An Overwhelming Success

While the rest of the student body was soaking in the last few rays of sun during their summer vacation, a handful of students began practice for the joint MBA/Harpeth Hall production of *Guys and Dolls*.

Under the direction of Dr. Fuller, thespians and musicians came together to put on one of the best—if not the best—play MBA—or Harpeth Hall—has ever seen; the play was sold out for all four shows. This play takes its place as the most successful production in recent MBA theater history.

From the opening scene—when Nicely-Nicely Johnson (Newton Patel), Benny Southstreet (Dr. Griffith), and Rusty Charlie (Walter Anderson) sang about their horse-betting schemes—to the very end—when both of the on-again off-again couples, Miss Adelaide (Ellen Boccy) and Nathan Detroit (Casper Samuels) and Sarah Brown (Christina Hogen) and Obadiah “Sky” Masterson (Miles Warfield), finally tied the knot—the audience was captivated and gave the deserving cast much applause and ovation.

The 1998-99 theater season continues with *Alfred Pennyworth*, a set of student-directed one act plays, December 3-6.

Reactions to the “Football Wall” Article

Despite the fact that last issue came out on a Friday afternoon right before a pep rally, a few members of the student body decided to read the first issue of the *Bell Ringer*. Some of them had a few choice words on the subject:

“Football brings in the most money for the school, so they deserve a wall.”

“I think whoever wrote that article was both courageous and a coward—courageous for writing it, and a coward for not putting his name on it.”

“Why is everyone making such a big deal about it—it’s just a wall—and there’s nothing anyone can do about its presence on the campus.”

“The only thing wrong with it is the grammar on those plaques—it’s horrible.”

Vandals Defile Debate Building

After returning from Fall Break, debate students were shocked to learn that vandals had broken into the debate building over the long weekend. Among other things, papers were scattered, the trophy case was broken into and Mr. Tate’s mini-T.V. was stolen.

Reactions to First Two Issues Desired

We as a staff ask for your feedback on the first two issues of this year’s *Bell Ringer*. Based on your comments, we will be able to change aspects of the paper that do not meet the expectations or desires of the student body, faculty, and staff.

Patrick Welsh Linnay
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SPORTS

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MBA CC: Give Us Your Best, and We'll Still Beat You

by Daniel Branscome and William Corbett

The MBA Cross Country Team has had an outstanding 1998 season. With David Dean and William Lee pushing the limit we began the year with a sweet victory at the Drake Invitational. As temperature's pushed 92, we came out strong at the Tennessee Classic which was the largest meet in Tennessee history and included teams from all surrounding states.

This meet was highlighted by a tremendous run by Phillip Simpson that left him gasping for air. Then one week later at A F Bridges, another incredibly large meet, we placed a lowly 4th place overall against unbelievably strong competition. At the beginning of October, we went on an away trip to Kentucky to compete in the Lexington Catholic Invitational, eating at everyone's favorite restaurant Olive Garden. During a downpour and fifty degree weather we swept the JV race, placing 7 of our 8 runners in the top twenty. In the Varsity race we were narrowly defeated, placing 2nd overall. Interestingly, other than Harpeth Hall, we were the only team from Tennessee.

Leading us this year are Seniors David Dean, Hunter Verner, JR Rudolph, Paymon Rouhanifard, Elijah Reynolds, Patrick Wall, Peter Chen, Alex Harwell, and Jasa Ziberna. We hope to maintain our victory at State on November 7th by defeating our only real competitor in Division IIA, Baylor, who we will certainly pummel. Toward this goal our

coaches, Pruitt, Corzine, Leach and Callen have motivated our Varsity runners to all achieve times of under seventeen minutes. This goal is amazing in and of itself and is further enhanced by the fact that two of our best Varsity runners are Freshmen, Brandon Booth and Morgan Miller. Other outstanding performers on the team have been Juniors, William Lea and Mason Guiffre, Sophomores, Philip Simpson and Jeff Sweeney and Freshmen, William Sisk.

One of the most notable experiences of the year has been the love letter circulated through the team. Apparently some girl named Casie(a freshman at Hillsboro mind you) has found herself staring at the "hot bods" of the cross-country team as we ran by her house everyday. Apparently especially attracted to Alex Harwell (who she hoped was not a 7th or 8th grader!) she decided to write a love note and pass it to one of the team members on his way to Vanderbilt one day. Just like any other hormone driven male, he read, laughed at, shared, and photo copied the letter, passing it among the entire team. Several members of the team called her up, her number having been provided on the note, and pretended to be Alex. Many laughs about this matter were shared in the team for many days.

Pathetically the public schools having been defeated by us on one to many occasions have further protected themselves by eliminating us from not only the same Division, but now the District Meet and placing us in the Mid-State Run where many on our team set personal records. Certainly, everyone on the Cross Country

Team has made a real contribution and enjoyed a terrific season. Nonetheless, all would be for naught without our coaches' hard work and motivation. After the State Meet we all plan to celebrate

by crushing and humiliating the Golf Team for the 2nd year in a row in the Weenie Bowl. With overwhelming numbers and strengths we will defeat them on the field of battle.

Golf Team's Season Ends

By Brad McDowell

Golf--a sport that does not quite bring in the revenue of some said MBA sports-- let's just say for instance, football-- but still a sport regardless. Our season started with a slippery victory against Clarksville High School. Judy Noble saw his season start off with a solid round of one under. Team veterans Brad McDowell and Nathaniel "I Think I'm the Captain"

Beaver made less convincing showings, and it took good rounds

from new team members Treat "The Fro" MacCallister, Carter Henderson, and Graham "The Man" Worsham to win.

The whole team went into a mid-season slump, culminating at the Bruin Invitational. Brandt "The Champ" Snedeker, who suffered a hand injury while "playing flag football," posted an 80. Beav and Carter both posted 83's. Noble pulled a Wallace and shot 89 while McDowell relinquished his firm hold on the six spot on the team to play, only to fall all the way below that mark after posting a fine round of 92.

The season looked grim and "Coach" Caldwell was put into a tough position to decide who deserved to play. Fro MacCallister abruptly got out of his slump and assured his spot in post-season play. Carter and the Beav also had some solid matches to insure their positions. Graham appeared to have pulled off the upset taking over the alternate spot from the perennial and legendary alternate, McDowell. The race ended in a

playoff, as McDowell was able to edge out Worsham 38 to 40. The season ended in a great celebration of golf when the USN Fighting Tigers pulled a no show for the last match showing the Big Red's obvious ability to scare off the weak. Bob "3:16" Cato and Miller "Bob's Sidekick" Harrison came clad in vintage Tom Watson golf pants, and "Coach" Caldwell made a legendary appearance when he actually played his first round in the presence of anyone remotely related to

MBA in fifteen years.

The state tournament itself was not a very good one for the Big Red. MBA shot a total of 605, pounding Goodpasture. It should be noted that that score was the best in MBA state tournament history, but the team still finished seventh overall. Young Fro MacCallister made a very impressive appearance at his first ever state golf tournament firing a 74-74 which placed him in ninth and earned him a spot on the all-state team. And of course, Brandt "The Champ" Snedeker slid away with his second individual state championship in a row after bogeying the last two holes to win by one with a score of 71-71.

I think I speak for the whole golf team when I say that we want to let those scurrying pansies, a.k.a. the "cross-country" team, know that we'll be waiting for them should they choose to play us in the Great Fall Classic, also known as the Weenie Bowl.



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SPORTS

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And the Cross Country Gods Smiled Upon MBA...

By David Dean

Last time we left the MBA cross country team, the brave runners were preparing for their first meet. Gather 'round now for the story of 30 men and their battles against the evil forces of Irish hooligans and nuclear-enhanced harriers ...

A few weeks ago, on a course not so far away, the MBA cross country team gathered for a momentous contest known as the Drake Invitational. The men strapped on their jerseys and ran hard, convincingly beating the Big (Navy) Blue of FRA. And the ancient gods of cross country, Pruitt and Corzine, were pleased.

They declared weekly battles to be held on the hallowed grounds of SEC, against the peoples of David Lipscomb, Hume Foggs, and, because they believe in second chances, FRA. While the neighboring clans repeatedly attempted to best the Big Red in these epic Dual Meets, they repeatedly failed.

Tired with competition only among local tribes, Pruitt decreed that the team participate against the titans in the annual Tennessee Classic. After a fierce contest with numerous screams of victory by the god of M&M's and Diet Coke, Corzine and the varsity team emerged with a sixth

place finish. The JV fought their way through a field of seemingly endless challengers to a finish behind only the nuclear-enhanced runners of Oak Ridge. And Father Ryan finished 18th. "This is good," saith Pruitt, "but it can be better." And so

the team sought to make it better.

The following week, in the largest meet ever in the grand history of Tennessee cross country, MBA again went up against the titans. Again the JV, urged on by the thunderous echoings of Corzine, ran through seemingly endless challengers—this time numbering around 600—and finished second. Again the Varsity ran well on their way to a third place finish. And again Father Ryan finished 18th. "It is good," saith Pruitt, "we need a vacation."

And so it was that the Big Red journeyed in their metal



chariots to the stronghold of Lexington for the Lexington Invitational. "Let us best these hillbillies," saith Pruitt, and so it was.

The JV brought home seven trophies of war cleverly disguised as T-shirts, and

being defeated yet another time, Pruitt declared a Contest of Skill and Fortitude, forever to be known as Tour De Pants. And so the brave runners competed in The Leach Lope, The Mighty Miles, The Scavenger Hunt, The Meet Your Partner, and The Ultimate Frisbee. And it was very good. The smaller deities, Leach and Callen attempted to beat the kindred runners in Meet Your Partner, but even they failed. So, after this week of merriment, the team was well rested and prepared for the challenges that still awaited them ...

The legend continues with Ye Olde Metro Championships, to be held the 22nd day of October on the grounds of the Steeplechase. The following week, on the same course is the Regional Race. November 7th is a momentous day indeed, as the brave runners attempt to best the rival tribes of McCallie and Baylor, and defend their State Championship. Come one, come all, and experience the adventure MBA cross country.

Farrell (cont. from pg. 2)

up has a great advantage over the American system in terms of creating a wholesome academic environment. The low drinking age, which is eighteen, also has great effects on the social life of the students. The school does not forbid the consumption of alcohol; on the contrary, it offers a spot, the school pub known affectionately as "the pump" for responsible consumption to take place. It came as quite a shock to me to see alcohol so readily available and without major restriction. With this freedom, however, also comes responsibility and, in turn, maturity.

MBA and Winchester College are both literally and figuratively on opposite sides of the world. Each school has its own system, and there are many differences within those systems. Both establishments, however,

strive for a certain level of excellence in every area. They try to achieve a level of learning that few other schools can attain. Both methods succeed in accomplishing their goals.

Just as the game of baseball evolved from cricket, so too did the American educational system evolve from the British one. Though the bat may be different, the players, as far as their attitudes, their outlooks, and their aspirations, are the same.

Absurd Person Plural: Student-Directed One Acts
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Nashville Predators Hit the Ice for Inaugural Season

By Brandon Schecter

Nashville's new National Hockey League team, the Nashville Predators, began its season on Saturday, October 10, but the formation of the team began

the team be successful in their inaugural season. In the entry draft, the Predators selected the top American prospect, David Legwand, with their first pick, the second overall pick. Legwand was

not signed for this year's season and will instead play for a Nashville-affiliated

minutes later, extending Nashville's lead. Also in the first period, Carolina player Dave Karpa smashed the Plexiglas of the door to the penalty box which led to a 25-minute delay. Proving the break in the game didn't slow them down one bit, the Predators' J.J. Daigneault scored just five seconds after play was resumed, prompting Carolina to pull Goalie Trevor Kidd who had made just three saves to counter Nashville's three goals. Carolina scored twice in the next five minutes and then both teams put on a strong defensive showing, with no goals scored in the remaining two periods. Dunham, one of the stars of the game, made 34 saves. The fans and players were glad to relieve the pressure by accomplishing their first win, 3-2.

Although Nashville is not a traditional NHL market, the fans have shown great support for their team. Even those who know very little about hockey have fun and can obtain a special receiver for an in-house radio broadcast, Hockey 101, explaining the rules throughout



almost two years earlier. Businessman Craig Leopold, now owner and chairman of the team, joined with Gaylord Entertainment in a bid for an NHL expansion team. Nashville became the 27th team in the NHL on June 25, 1997, but there were conditions that had to be met for this team to materialize. The Predators had to sell at least 12,000 season tickets to keep the franchise alive, a goal reached just days before the March 31st deadline. The season tickets being sold, the Predators officially became Nashville's team.

Nashville selected several top players in the expansion draft. In this draft, expansion teams can choose players from current NHL teams with the exception of a certain number of key players that the current teams withhold. Although the Predators selected many top NHL players, all but a few were lost as unrestricted free agents in return for higher draft picks in next year's draft. However, Nashville's first expansion pick, former New Jersey backup goaltender and minor league star Mike Dunham, and former Florida captain and current Nashville captain Tom Fitzgerald are two key players with NHL experience and plenty of talent who will help

minor league team.

For the inaugural game the entrance to the arena was decorated as an ice cave with artificial snow and icy mist and each fan there was given a commemorative puck and a pop-up game ticket. After the opening fanfare, including appearances by local country music celebrities, the Predators faced the Florida Panthers, a team they had beaten in the pre-season, in front of a sold-out crowd of 17,298 screaming hockey fans. The Predators lost 1-0 after several missed opportunities to score early in the game. The Florida goal came early in the third period, and the Predators were unable to mount a serious offensive threat, even on power plays. Goalie Mike Dunham made a strong showing with 25 saves.

For the Predators second home game on October 13, they faced the Carolina Hurricanes. Andrew Brunette scored the Predators' first ever goal just over five minutes into the game, but the celebration was delayed by the referee's consultation with replay officials who determined that a Carolina player had intentionally dislodged the net, but that the puck would have gone in had play continued. The Predators' Denny Lambert scored just six and a half

the game.

Comments from MBA students include:

"I'm excited about the Predators' first season!"

"We have a hockey team?" "Good wholesome fun for the whole family."

"Hockey combines the greatest aspects of most sports so it's great to watch."

"I've got season tickets and I'm really excited about seeing NHL games, a definite step up from the Nashville Knights."



After their first two games, the Predators went 0-2-1, tying the Toronto Maple Leafs and losing to the champion Detroit Red Wings and the Calgary Flames.

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OPINIONS

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"Wall" Writer Misinformed

By Michael Lewis

If you read the last issue of the *Bell Ringer*, you probably saw an article dealing with the new entrance to Tommy Owen Field. In this article the author, who remained anonymous, wrote that this new "football wall" served as an example MBA's devoting too much of its money and energy to sports and more specifically to the football program. The author questioned the use of students' tuition money to pay for athletic programs. He criticized MBA for not spending as much money on non-sports related programs. He compared the plaques, which are on the new wall, commemorating the 100 years of MBA football tradition to dead cicada shells and made fun of everyone who took pride in the traditions of MBA.

I am confident that the young man who wrote that inflammatory article was not only misguided, but also dangerously misinformed. Firstly, I would point out that there are other extracurricular activities that are at least as well-developed and well-funded as the football program. According to one highly-placed MBA administrator, the debate program's budget practically exceeds that of the football team's. Additionally, MBA possesses programs and facilities for the visual arts, music, and theater that are second to none in Nashville.

More importantly, one should take a good look at the MBA motto after reading such an article: "Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete." A true gentleman would have been more respectful of MBA's heritage than the anonymous author. A gentleman would also have had the backbone to put his name to an article which so insulted the school he attends. A true scholar would have carefully considered the facts and not rushed to such an inflammatory judgment of MBA so quickly. A true athlete would have seen the value in honoring the proud tradition of MBA athletics.

In closing, I would like to point out that that articles such as the one in the last issue of this paper endanger our freedom of expression at MBA. I know the school encourages legitimate criticism of its practices. An finger-pointing, joke-filled, reactionary article full of outright lies dealing with an important contribution to MBA's campus can only hurt the image of our school. We rely upon MBA's students to write truthful articles with worthwhile content in the *Bell Ringer*. If students continue to use irresponsibly their freedom of expression, censorship of student publications could easily follow. We must remember that freedom of expression requires responsibility.

By Matt Davis

How many people do you know told you they weren't taking a girl to the Homecoming dance because they're too ugly, or because girls can't stand their boring sense of humor?

I've heard quite a few reasons like that in my time, and even though it can be the product of just a large inferiority complex, it often isn't. A lot of the confessors have the guts to face reality, and admit their fated "flaws," which cannot be fixed. I personally find this self-acceptance very respectable; however, what I cannot respect is that they do nothing about it.

Some people have a social instinct they desire to fulfill, but feel the fulfillment is impossible, and try to be content with pity and sympathy instead of what they really want. Maybe you know some of these people. Perhaps you are one of them. I am sure they have existed for as long as civilization has been around, and have almost never done anything about their predicament. But where there's a will, there is always a way.

That's right. Ways to overcome physical misfortune and lack of wit exist, but they require a lot of effort. And I don't mean effort as in they take a lot of time, or are incredibly exhausting. I'm taking about real mental effort--the kind which can alter your perception of the world forever. You've got to overlook previously accepted social standards, and develop your own theory, your own preferences, and your own methods of thinking - real effort. Unless you can do that, you cannot fully understand and accomplish what I am about to say. If that is the case, perhaps you can read the rest of this

article as humorous.

Beauty lies in the eye of the beholder. Absolutely nothing makes the Venus de Milo more beautiful than Jabba the Hutt. But chances are your mind has been too manipulated by social conformity to see a girl who resembles Jabba the Hutt as beautiful - don't feel bad, it's inevitable. To reform your perspective, there are several mental exercises you can do to break your inherited sense of appeal. For example, paste several pictures of grotesque bodies around your room, so they are the first thing you see when you wake up in the morning, and the last thing before you go to sleep. Force yourself not to be disgusted by acne, rolls of fat, or a severely discombobulated facial structure. It can be done. Replace the images of beautiful, almost divine women in your head when daydreaming about your ideal girlfriend, lover, what-have-you, with a simply vomitous bile-beast with the appropriate genitalia.

There might be other, easier ways of escaping the misfortunes of social deprivation, of which I am less knowledgeable. Hypnotism, for instance, may be a perfect, simple method of cleansing the common, vulgar archetype of the ideal woman from your brain. I fully support researching such routes to happiness and would honestly be interested in hearing about your results. In the meantime, please consider my plan towards salvation with an open mind and a ready spirit.



Matt's Column



MCCLURES
SINCE 1936

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OPINIONS

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Uselessness of Fitness Test

"What's bench press?"

"What's leg press?"

"Where's the weight room?"

If MBA students are asking these questions like these, how can they possibly pass an extensive physical evaluation?

Two years ago, MBA began a fitness test for high school students, and the results were more than poor. The test consisted of the following for each student: 15 repetitions of 75% of his body weight on bench press, 20 repetitions of 100% of his body weight on leg press, resting heart rate, body fat percentage, and maximum number of sit-ups in 30 seconds.

This test was administered to be at evaluation of his cardiovascular and muscular condition for health awareness reasons. However, this test has a number of flaws and discrepancies.

First of all, MBA students are required each year to have a physical before registration from a doctor. This evaluation should be sufficient health information for each student's awareness. If MBA requires this pre-registration information, then the purpose of a fitness test during the year has been defeated.

Secondly, a portion of the student body does not participate in athletics and instead takes part in

the theater club, debate team, or other such extracurricular activities. These students also receive athletic credit for their activities, although they could still be significantly unfit. Even if they are unfit, they would still be aware of it because of the pre-registration physical, but they would not be forced to do anything about their fitness.

A graduate of the 1997 class never played a varsity sport in his 6 years at MBA until joining the swim team in his senior year. He took the fitness test that year and had some interesting results: 7% body fat (Olympic athlete), heart rate of 50 beats per minute (College Athlete), and 20 repetitions of his weight on leg press. However, he took this test in the fall before joining the swim team in the winter, proving that if relatively non-athletic students can do this well on the test, it can be misleading and inaccurate.

Finally, a number of students are unaware of exercises and other ways to stay fit. A student in intramurals may play several games every week, but he does not know about any of the weight room exercises on which he will be tested. If this fitness test is to stay in effect, it should be inconsequential and maybe even optional.

"Bizzaro" Leach

By William Corbett

Maybe a little younger, maybe a little taller, maybe a little bit more fat, maybe a little bigger... maybe a little better? Mr. Rodenek Russ, one of MBA's new faculty members seems to be threatening the power of the infamous history teacher, Mr. Leach.

Besides the fact that they look very much alike, they both teach history, they both wear glasses, they both have the same color hair. How similar can you get? The MBA community is threatened by the imminent conflict between the original Leach and his Bizzaro counterpart for dominance. Remember the *Seinfeld* episode in which Elaine discovers a "Bizzaro" world? While filled with witty and slapstick comedy, one must remember that one of the worlds eventually collapsed and therefore that collapse must eventually occur in the real world.

Many of you may be familiar with the original Bizzaro, the "anti-Superman" of action comics. He was clumsy and dense and lacks common sense but did share the invincible powers of Superman. The Man of Steel defeated this foe and reestablished his role as the one true Superman.

One thing is for sure, though, and that is how next year will be very awkward for the current 8th graders, as they are overwhelmed

not only by the increased responsibilities, but also by the confusion they will face as they enter Mr. Leach's class. Many will be forced to spend hours at night looking at Leach's picture, saying to themselves, "This is Mr. Leach, not Mr. Russ, Mr. Leach not Mr. Russ, Leach not Russ..." This superfluous amount of a freshman's time spent studiously attempting not to confuse the two men will lead to their failure and then their dropping out of MBA.

I'm sure that this predicament may scare the younger members of our Junior Seinfeld, but fear not little seventh graders, for the battle between these monomaniacal forces will definitely be resolved by your first year of high school. Fellow teachers will confuse their names, the sports they coach, and the grades they teach. Announcements will call for meetings with one, while meaning to address the other. The constant errors in their identities will eventually drive both teachers mad and thus create an opportunity for a showdown.

Appearing to be more muscle-bound, Mr. Russ seems to have the advantage over the smaller and weaker Mr. Leach. One however must not forget that Leach is a cross-country coach and will be faster and might have some sort of deadly leg vice grip.

In the end, only one will stand.

1998 College Tour--Worth the Time?

By Andrew Thomson

On an early summer morn, thirty-nine rising juniors and seniors climbed aboard an Orion tour bus, departed from MBA, and promptly fell back asleep. Tucked by Joseph, our fearless Israeli bus driver, the students eagerly awaited touring colleges all over the Southeastern United States. Under the leadership of college counselors Mr. Patrick and Dr. Griffith, students endured guided tours and many info sessions.

On departing from MBA, the tour headed southeast towards its first destination, the University

of the South. Then it was on to Emory University, Georgia Tech, and the University of Georgia. Next, the tour swung through the Carolinas and visited Clemson University, Furman University, Davidson University, Wake Forest University, Duke University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After driving through Virginia and touring the College of William and Mary, the University of Richmond, the University of Virginia, Washington and Lee University and Virginia Tech, the group returned to Tennessee to visit UT-Knoxville.

At each college, the group enjoyed a walking tour and/or an info session. Students spent the night in college dorms where friendly college staff provided them with sheets, towels, and sometimes even a blanket. After seeing all the colleges and comparing information on each, students developed a sense of what qualities they were looking for in a college. The college tour helped to provide each student with the goals they need to be admitted to such prestigious universities.

When the students arrived at MBA, each waved a tearful

good-bye to Joseph and sadly retuned home with the duffel bags full of dirty clothes and happy memories of the good times on the 1998 college tour. But for those who were not able to experience the wonder of the 1998 college tour, next summer MBA is offering a one-time opportunity to be member of the exclusive 1999 college tour of the Mid-Atlantic region.

Now is the time to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Don't miss out—the 1999 college tour happens once.

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MBA Welcomes Additions to the Faculty

By William Corbett



Jan Barton

Having taught music in Nashville public schools for the past six years, Jan Barton has joined the MBA faculty. She is not only assisting Mr. Rundberg and Dr. Cassell in the music programs but is also working with our track program. Mrs. Barton grew up in Nashville and after graduating from McGavock High School went on to receive her B.S. and masters in music from Austin Peay State University



Ryan Gaston

Also a faculty intern this year, Mr. Gaston received his B.S. in Spanish and Education from the University of Evansville. Mr. Gaston grew up in Indiana and has not only taught at several Indiana high schools but has also worked with a law firm and in a radio station. He has been involved with youth hockey, swimming, an educational fraternity, and marching bands. Mr. Gaston is teaching Spanish, is assisting with the technology for our Language Department, and is working with our athletic program.



Kay Simmons

As many of you may know, Mrs. Simmons is the mother of the MBA junior Barton Simmons, an important member of the football and basketball teams. She is MBA's new Development Director. Most recently, she has served as the Assistant Dean for Development at Vanderbilt Law School, the Director of Development at University School, and as the Interim Director of the University School



Roderick Russ

After growing up in Jackson, Mississippi and attending the University of Mississippi and Mississippi College, Mr. Russ taught at two independent schools in Mississippi before moving to Nashville two years ago. Mr. Russ is teaching U.S. History and Cultural Geography in the Junior School and is following in the footsteps of Mr. Bills by working with the intramural programs.



Jason Callen

A faculty intern at MBA this year, Mr. Callen is teaching history in the Junior School and will be helping with the track and cross-country programs. "The General," as Mr. Callen is called by the cross-country team, graduated from Washington and Lee University last June with a B.A. in history. He was active in student government and served as a university tour guide and dormitory counselor, as well as serving as the captain of both the cross-country and track teams.



Michael Kelly

Mr. Kelly is from County Tipperary, Ireland, where he received his B.A. in English and higher diploma in education at the University College in Cork. Having taught in government schools in Ireland and England for four years, he eventually assumed responsibilities as a publicity manager for an English firm in 1990 and then opened an office in San Francisco. Mr. Kelly is teaching English this year and will be working with our athletic program.



Lyle Husband

Mr. Husband is a graduate of Brentwood Academy and the University of Tennessee where he received a degree in both English and history. For the past year, Mr. Husband has written the University of Tennessee's basketball newsletter and will this year be coaching basketball and working with our history department.

Interested in writing for *The Bell Ringer*? Feel free to stop by the third floor of Ball during Activity Period or see Mr. Jones, Mr. Callen, or one of the editors listed on pg. 3.

If you would like to write an article, please do so and give it to an editor to be edited.

Anonymity will be preserved for those who do not want their names printed.

(“Anonymity policy” will be addressed in next issue.)

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Slick Willy's CAR OF THE MONTH

by Adam Mazzoni and Jonathan Baird

David Dean's

1985 Toyota Van (no minivan or Previa, just Van).
264, 178 miles.

Ranking of 1 being the worst and 10 being the highest:

Nicknames: Ben, Silver Bullet, Bambi's worst nightmare.

Backseat Sleep-Ability: 10; either the fold-the middle-seat-down-to-make-a-bed technique or just the back works fine, lots of room in trunk for blankets and pillows.

Mack-Ability: 5; sadly resembles a kidnapper van. Doors have that middle seat trick, however-girls also like the room of front seat.

Escape-Ability: 0-2, depending on gas level. Acceleration varies according to how much is in the tank. From 0-60 in 12-15 seconds (full) to 20 seconds (empty). Any sharp turns bring up the possibility of tipping over.

Top Speed: unsure of actual speed at any time because of broken speedometer; reported to be around 90.

Number of Wrecks: with animals-3; with other cars-3 or 4; with parked cars-1

Times Pulled: Over: 3, one by a policeman who said he pulled him over for Dean's own safety since "You never know what's gonna happen with these things when you got 'em over 45."

Personal opinion: A great vehicle, ample room in the back for...whatever, good trucker-feel with lack of hood and high seats. Speakers are still good after 13 years, highly visible. Lack of AC and good breaks, but there are tradeoff to everything.

Cool Features: After a few "mishaps", Van actually contains parts from 3 vans, including bumper with "I Vote for Bush" sticker...received head job this summer...driven by every member of the Dean family...almost had collision with Bison in Montana...engine is under the seat so you have to lift the seat up to put in the oil...1 of 5 manual shift Toyota vans still on the road... the back seat folds down...has three odometers.

Backseat: haven't conferred with sister yet, but as of yet, no.

Writers' Note: As for last issues "Not So Slick Willy's Car of the Month," we did not write that. Whoever did gave out column a bad name. Don't let us find out who it is.



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ENTERTAINMENT

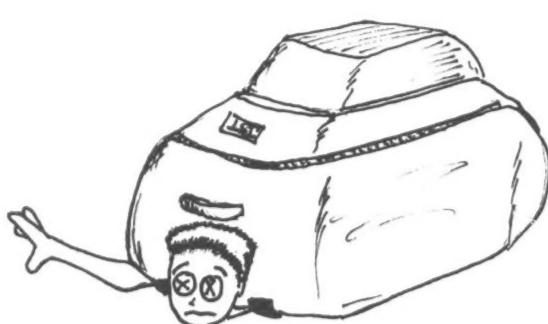
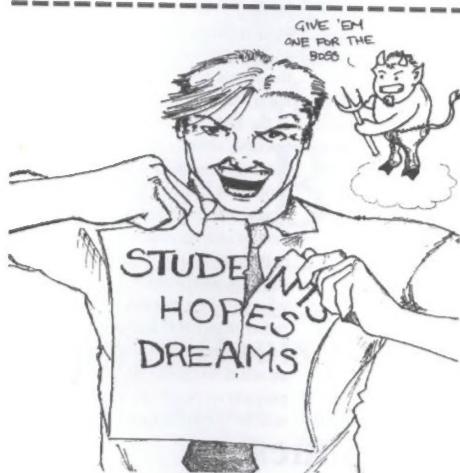
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COMICS



Tragedy Strikes: Backpack Crushes Student

Have You Seen Us?



Jonathan Sewell

Name: Jonathan Sewell
Wt: 110 lbs
Sex: Male



Computer Age Progression

Age: 17
Hair: Brown
Date Missing: 6/2/98



Last Seen With: Unknown Abductor

Ht: 5'3"
Eyes: Blue
From: Nashville, TN

